

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-37 (Canceled)

38. (New) A node for use in a wireless network comprising:

a transceiver; and

a control to operate the node in an active state with the transceiver on and a low power state with the transceiver off, the node in the low power state switching to the active state at regular intervals to receive a broadcast polling message and the node synchronizing to the broadcast polling message.

39. (New) A node for use in a wireless network comprising:

a transceiver; and

a control to operate the node in an active state and a low power state, the node in a low power state waking in response to a timer interrupt to receive a broadcast packet to which the node synchronizes.

40. (New) A node for use in a wireless network comprising:

a transceiver; and

a control to operate the node in an active state and a low power state, the node in a low power state waking at a timed interval to receive a packet broadcast periodically in a broadcast packet time slot, the node being responsive to the broadcast packet to switch to the active state.

41. (New) A node for use in a wireless network as recited in claim 40 wherein the node switches from the active state to the low power state if the node does not receive a message within a predetermined period of time.

42. (New) A method for operating a node in a wireless network comprising:

waking a node in a low power state at regular intervals;

receiving at a waken node a message broadcast periodically in a broadcast message time slot;

synchronizing the node to a received broadcast message; and

switching the node to an active state in response to a received broadcast message.

43. (New) A method for operating a node in a wireless network comprising:
waking a node in a low power state at regular intervals;
receiving at a waken node a message broadcast periodically in a broadcast message time slot;
synchronizing the node to a received broadcast message;
switching the node to an active state in response to a received broadcast message; and
switching the node to the low power state if a message is not received in the active state for a predetermined period of time.

44. (New) A wireless network comprising:
a first node for periodically broadcasting a polling message;
a second node having an active state for receiving messages and a low power state, the second node switching from the active state to the low power state if a message is not received in the active state for a predetermined period of time and the second node in a low power state waking at regular time intervals to receive a broadcast packet to which the second node synchronizes.

45. (New) A method of operating nodes in a wireless network comprising:
operating a node in an active state;
switching the node from the active state to a low power state if a message is not received for a predetermined period of time in the active state;
periodically broadcasting from another node a polling message;
waking the node in the low power state at timed intervals to receive a broadcast polling message; and
synchronizing the waken node to the received broadcast polling message.